

**Commission on
Human Rights and
Opportunities**

Memo

To: Commerce Committee
From: Tanya A. Hughes, Executive Director
Date: February 27, 2014
Re: **HB 5274, AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS
AND DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES**

With regret, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities cannot support HB 5274.

While the intention of the Commerce Committee is admirable, we believe that discrimination against the unemployed is a matter more properly addressed by the Department of Labor as proposed by Governor Malloy in HB 5054, which has been raised and heard in the Labor and Public Employees Committee. The provisions in HB 5054 are explicit and direct.

The Commission believes the language of the bill as presently drafted presents a number of challenges. We are more than happy to work with the Committee on creating substitute language if you choose to move forward with HB 5274.

Thank you for your consideration of the concerns of CHRO.

We would urge the Commerce Committee to not report HB 5274 and instead defer to HB 5054.